

REMARKS

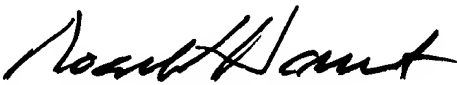
Claims 1-22 remain pending herein. Claim 19 has been amended hereby.

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to eliminate multiply dependent claims from the above-identified application.

Examination of this application on its merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date


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Attachment: Claim Mark-ups

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~~a group composed of the FIP, CAN, CANopen, Interbus S, DeviceNet protocols.~~

18. Adapter device according to claim 1, wherein the lower level communication protocol is a communication protocol based on the USB protocol.

19. (Amended) Configuration process used in an adapter device according to claim 1 ~~one of the previous claims~~, the process comprising :

- a recognition step (R) in which the adapter (20) determines and memorizes a partial identifier (18a) or a complete identifier (18b) of a lower level protocol starting from means of recognising the lower level connecting cable (14) connected to the adapter (20),

- a first identification step (I1) in which the adapter (20) communicates with the higher level equipment (30) using the higher level communication protocol to transmit the partial identifier (18a) or the complete identifier (18b) of the lower level protocol, to the higher level equipment,

- a first downloading step (T1) in which the higher level equipment (30) downloads a first conversion program (15) between the higher level protocol and the lower level protocol, into the adapter (20), corresponding to the partial identifier (18a) or the complete identifier (18b) of the transmitted lower level protocol.

~~20. Configuration process according to claim 19,~~ wherein, when the lower level protocol identifier transmitted to the higher level equipment (30) during the first identification step (I1) is a partial identifier (18a), the process comprises the following additional steps :

- a learning step (A) in which the adapter (20) communicates with the lower level equipment (40) using the first conversion program (15) downloaded during the